

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, lines 11-13, please change the paragraph to read:

[0002] The present invention relates to optical [[apparatus]] apparatuses and, more particularly, to optical [[apparatus]] apparatuses using a variable-optical-characteristic optical element.

Page 1, lines 14-21, please change the paragraph to read:

[0003] Conventionally, lenses, mirrors and so forth are used in optical [[apparatus]] apparatuses. These optical elements have invariable optical characteristics. That is, the focal length thereof, for example, is not variable. Therefore, in order to effect focusing or zooming, for example, it is necessary to move lenses, etc. This causes the whole optical apparatus to become unfavorably heavy in weight and large in size.

Page 1, line 22, through page 2, line 11, please change the paragraph to read:

[0004] Conventional digital cameras have an arrangement in which an image display device, an imaging lens and a solid-state image pickup device are fixedly accommodated in a single box. Therefore, the conventional digital cameras have the disadvantage that they cannot be made compact and hence become unfavorably heavy. Further, because the definition (pixel density) of solid-state image pickup devices is becoming increasingly higher, the overall functions of digital cameras rapidly become [[obsolescent]] obsolete. Meanwhile, there is a demand for a compact, lightweight and low-power consumption image pickup system for use in portable telephones, portable information terminals, capsule and other endoscopes, etc. In this regard, an image pickup system using the conventional method in which an optical system consisting of lenses and other optical elements is driven by a motor is large in size and heavy in weight and suffers unfavorably high power consumption.

Page 2, lines 22-25, please change the paragraph to read:

[0007] Another object of the present invention is to provide optical [[apparatus]] apparatuses, e.g. [[a]] digital [[camera]] cameras and [[a system]] systems using [[it]] them, which are compact, lightweight and superior in function [[upgradability]] upgradeability and expandability.

Page 2, lines 26-27, please change the paragraph to read:

[0008] For example, the optical [[apparatus]] apparatuses according to the present invention include the following:

Page 3, lines 10-15, please change the paragraph to read:

[0014] [6] A variable mirror characterized by using at least two selected from the group consisting of electrostatic force, electromagnetic force, a piezoelectric effect, magnetostriction, a fluid pressure, [[an electric field,]] a magnetic field, an electromagnetic wave, a temperature change, and a photomechanical effect.

Page 3, lines 16-21, please change the paragraph to read:

[0015] [7] A variable-focus lens characterized by using at least two selected from the group consisting of electrostatic force, electromagnetic force, a piezoelectric effect, magnetostriction, a fluid pressure, [[an electric field,]] a magnetic field, an electromagnetic wave, a temperature change, and a photomechanical effect.

Pages 3-4, please change the paragraph to read:

[0017] [9] A variable-optical-characteristic optical element characterized by using at least two selected from the group consisting of electrostatic force, electromagnetic force, a piezoelectric effect, magnetostriction, a fluid pressure, [[an electric field,]] a magnetic field, an electromagnetic wave, a temperature change, and a photomechanical effect.